

TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM 2025



Research Findings Dissemination Conference

April 06, 2026



Bangladesh
Center for
Communication
Programs



Bangladesh Tobacco Control
Research Network



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Institute for
Global Tobacco Control

TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM 2025



Research Findings Dissemination Conference

April 06, 2026



Additional Secretary (World Health Wing)
Health Services Division
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

Message

The Government of Bangladesh has made notable progress in advancing tobacco control under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Guided by the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), we have strengthened enforcement through the National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) and taken important steps to amend the Tobacco Control Law in line with global standards.

Most recently, the landmark Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 introduced bold reforms, including bans on e-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and heated tobacco products, reflecting our firm commitment to addressing emerging threats and protecting future generations.

The ordinance will protect our youth by strictly prohibiting the sale of tobacco products within 100 meters of schools, hospitals, clinics, playgrounds, and parks. Furthermore, 75% of all tobacco packaging must now be covered by graphic health warnings, an increase from the previous 50%. Tobacco companies can no longer use “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) as a mask for marketing. The use of company logos, names, or trademarks in any CSR activity or event sponsorship is now strictly prohibited.

These reforms build upon earlier measures such as comprehensive advertising bans, smoke-free laws, and large health warnings, which have already contributed to reducing tobacco use. Yet, with more than one-third of adults still consuming tobacco, the challenge remains immense and continued vigilance is essential.

It is therefore encouraging to see the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), in partnership with the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA, convening this Research Findings Dissemination Conference. I believe that the evidence generated will help strengthen existing tobacco control policies and facilitate the development of new evidence-based interventions in Bangladesh.

I congratulate the researchers on the completion of these studies. The insights generated through the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program will further strengthen evidence-based policymaking, ensuring that our strategies remain firmly grounded in science, innovation, and international best practices.

I wish this initiative every success and urge all stakeholders to work together for a healthier and tobacco-free Bangladesh through strengthened tobacco control efforts.

Sheikh Momena Moni

Message

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health places the reduction of tobacco-caused death and disease at the heart of its mission both globally and in countries where the burden of tobacco use is especially severe. In 2013, we took a significant step forward in Bangladesh. Together with the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs, we launched the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program. This initiative was designed to build national capacity for tobacco control research and, most importantly, to create a strong local evidence base that could guide effective policy. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, under the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use.

Since then, we have seen remarkable progress. The Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network has emerged as a vital platform bringing researchers together, enabling them to share findings, and fostering collaboration across disciplines. This network is more than just a forum; it is a driving force behind evidence-based policymaking.

Through the combined efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, our partners in the Bloomberg Initiative, tobacco control leaders, advocates, and researchers across the country, we are building a body of knowledge to strengthen existing policies and inform more effective measures.

Research studies conducted in Bangladesh have generated local evidence informing the “Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance 2025.” This ordinance will introduce important measures including bans on e-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and heated tobacco products; stricter prohibitions on the sale of tobacco products within 100 meters of schools, hospitals, clinics, playgrounds, and children parks; graphic health warnings to cover 75% of all tobacco packaging, instead of 50%; and prohibitions on the use of tobacco company logos, names, or trademarks in any CSR activity or event sponsorship.

Together, we are not only shaping policy, but we are also contributing to a healthier future. I wish the program continued success.



Joanna Cohen

Joanna Cohen, PhD, MHSC
Director, Institute for Global Tobacco Control
Bloomberg Professor of Disease Prevention
Chair, Department of Health, Behavior and Society
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



**Bangladesh
Center for
Communication
Programs**



Message

The Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) has always been driven by one clear vision: to improve the lives of millions through the power of strategic communication and research. In pursuit of this vision, since 2013, BCCP has proudly managed the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program. Funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies under the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use through the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, this initiative plays a vital role in building research capacity and generating the local evidence needed to shape stronger policies, guide advocacy, and advance effective communication for tobacco control in Bangladesh.

In 2013, we also launched the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) - a platform that continues to nurture a vibrant community of tobacco control researchers across the country.

The grant program follows a rigorous and transparent process. Calls for proposals are announced in national newspapers, and submissions are reviewed by a panel of distinguished local and international experts against established criteria. In recent years, the BTCRN website has enabled digital submission and selection, streamlining the process and expanding accessibility. And the results speak for themselves: numerous studies have been published in international journals, and findings have been shared at both national and global conferences.

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the important findings from the 2025 research cycle. Seven proposals were selected for funding, and I warmly congratulate the researchers for their dedication and the successful completion of their projects. In addition, eleven research studies conducted by in-country BI partners and grantees and individual researchers will also be presented as posters at the conference - further enriching our collective understanding of tobacco control challenges and solutions.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Institute for Global Tobacco Control for their technical and financial support. I also thank the Government of Bangladesh, our Bloomberg partners, BTCRN members, NGOs, and the many tobacco control advocates whose unwavering commitment continues to drive progress in this field.

Together, we are building a healthier future for Bangladesh, one where evidence influences action and communication empowers meaningful change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shahjahan'.

Mohammad Shahjahan
Director & CEO

Generating Evidence to Support Stronger Tobacco Control Policies in Bangladesh

Tobacco use is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Each year, tobacco use causes more than 8 million deaths worldwide. The majority of tobacco-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, which are frequently targeted by aggressive marketing and interference from the tobacco industry. In Bangladesh, the tobacco burden is particularly severe. According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), approximately 35% of adults currently use tobacco in smoked and/or smokeless forms. In addition, 43% of adults are exposed to secondhand smoke at work, while 39% are exposed at home. Tobacco use is responsible for up to half of all deaths among its users and leads to premature mortality and morbidity, deepens health inequalities, and worsens poverty. The study highlighted a pronounced social gradient in tobacco use in Bangladesh, with prevalence increasing as socioeconomic status declines. While 24% of individuals in the highest wealth quintile use tobacco, the prevalence rises to 48% among those in the lowest wealth quintile. These lower-income households are at greater risk of catastrophic health expenditures and impoverishment due to high healthcare costs associated with tobacco-related diseases, as well as productivity losses and opportunity costs.

Focus on tobacco control research and its capacity-building programs are insufficient to meet the challenges. Tobacco control research has historically not been a popular topic within the academic community in Bangladesh. Therefore, there is a dearth of facts and figures needed to develop or strengthen tobacco control policy interventions in Bangladesh.



The Government of Bangladesh has a vision to make Bangladesh tobacco-free by 2040. To fulfill this commitment, comprehensive tobacco control programs are essential, supported by a strong research component that generates local evidence to inform policy planning and implementation.

Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), in collaboration with the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA, places strong emphasis on enhancing research capacity and producing locally relevant evidence to support effective tobacco control policies. In this context, the Research Grant Program, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, was launched in 2013 with ten research grants. Since its inception, the findings of numerous studies have been highly encouraging and have yielded important policy implications and contributed to the law amendment.



The objectives of the program are to:

- Build the research capacity, especially, of the young researchers of different universities and organizations;
- Enhance the local evidence base on tobacco control in Bangladesh;
- Take measures to make the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) sustainable and continue to serve as a forum for tobacco control researchers to exchange ideas, share research findings, generate new tobacco control research and utilize their findings.

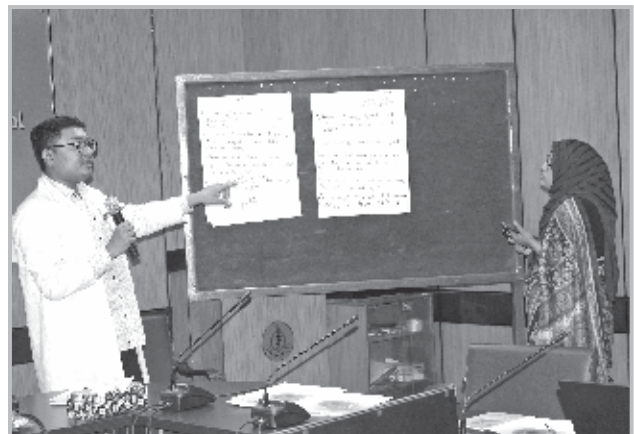
Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program

The Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Involving capacity-building workshops covering the whole spectrum of the research process, the program was being implemented during the last thirteen years with an emphasis on engaging graduate student researchers. All Bangladeshi graduate students and established researchers aspiring to contribute to tobacco control are eligible to apply for the grant.



Research Topic

BCCP and Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) organize a Consultative Workshop to Identify the Future Tobacco Control Research Needs in Bangladesh in collaboration with the National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) every year. Representatives of relevant government departments,



public and private universities, Bloomberg Initiative (BI) partners and grantees and other organizations working on tobacco control participated in the workshop. The outcomes of the workshop are utilized to prepare the Call for Proposal for the Research Grant Program. Researchers are encouraged to choose topics related to priority issues of the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. Proposals generating local evidence that contribute to develop a new policy or strengthen an existing one in line with the components of the World Health Organization's MPOWER package are recommended.



Proposal Selection Process

BCCP follows a rigorous process for selecting research proposals every year. A Proposal Review Panel comprising of renowned researchers and tobacco control experts from home and abroad reviews the proposals. The Panel considers the following while selecting the winning proposals:

- Priority issues of Bloomberg Initiative
- Competitiveness
- Expected policy implications

The review panel follows a three-step review process. The first step involves preliminary screening to see whether proposals follow the submission guideline. The second step involves reviewing proposals and providing technical scoring while in the third step, applicants present their proposals in front of the review panel.

Implementation of the Grant Program

BCCP has a highly experienced and dedicated team with both technical and managerial expertise to manage the grant program. The research team is led by the Senior Research Specialist and has members representing diverse backgrounds including statistician, anthropologist, epidemiologist, and sociologist. The team nurtures grantees by providing mentorship in every step of research work, including questionnaire development, data collection, data management and analysis, developing effective PowerPoint presentation as well as presenting research findings in front of wider audiences, and report writing.

The following mentoring workshops are organized and facilitated for the research grantees:

- Proposal Review Workshop
- Research Method, Procedure and Data Collection
- Data Management, Analysis and Report Writing
- Effective Presentation Development and Facilitation Skills

The team also provides mentorship while the researchers develop manuscripts and recommend appropriate journals for publication. The team continues to provide mentorship even after the grant period is over.

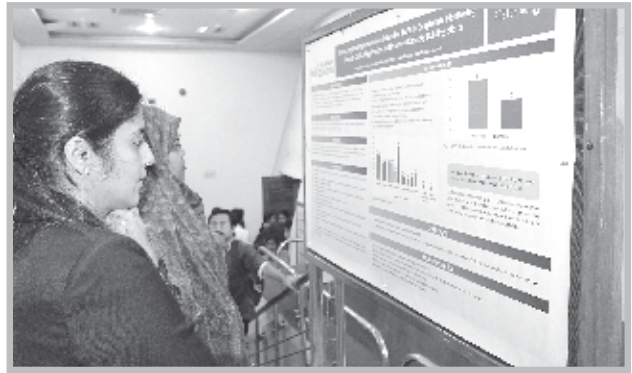
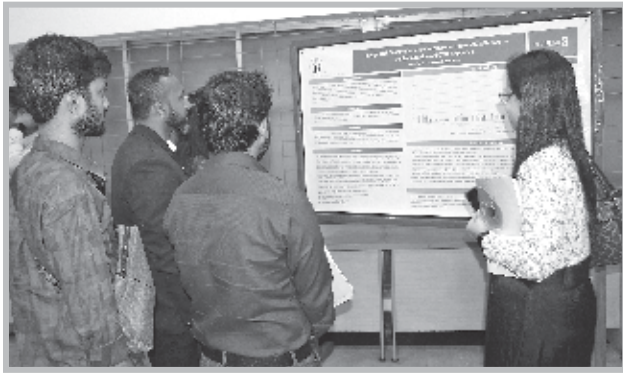
Dissemination and Use of Research Findings

Till date, one hundred and thirty-eight researchers including both established and graduate student researchers have been awarded research grants. Following each grant cycle, the research findings are disseminated through scientific conferences. Representatives of Government, NGO, INGO, universities, research community, Bloomberg Initiative partners and grantees, and media attend the conferences. Print and electronic media cover the news of the conferences and publish special news/articles on individual research studies. Around the dissemination conference, some selected in-country tobacco control research studies conducted by other researchers are also presented as posters.



Different organizations working on tobacco control are utilizing the research findings to design and implement Social and Behavior Change Communication and advocacy programs. Major research findings are available at www.btcrcn.org. So far, thirty-eight studies have been published in international journals. Some more studies are underway for publication. In addition, thirty-one abstracts have been accepted and presented in different national and international conferences.





Emergence of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN)

With the aim to provide a platform and support the potential tobacco control researchers in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) was launched in 2013 under the auspices of the JHSPH-BCCP Tobacco Control Project. BTCRN was established so that it can carry out systematic capacity-building programs even after the donor-funded project is over in order to ensure the sustainability of the research grant program. The Network is registered under the Joint Stock Companies and Firms.

The overall objective of the Network is to promote and nurture a tobacco control research culture in Bangladesh, developing a local evidence-based research repository to enhance tobacco control policy development and implementation in the country.





The specific objectives of the Network are to:

- Review Bangladesh-specific tobacco control-related research activities and identify gaps;
- Document and disseminate tobacco control research findings that can be used to enhance support for tobacco control policy development and implementation; and,
- Serve as a resource for partners, implementers, activists, researchers, academicians, and the Government with respect to tobacco control research.

Membership

BTCRN offers both institutional and individual membership, including student membership. Any Bangladeshi university, institution, national and local NGO, government, and individual who is interested in tobacco control and signs a declaration that they are in no way affiliated with the tobacco industry, including engaging in advertising or distribution of tobacco or tobacco-related products, can be a member of the Network.

The 7- Member Executive Board of BTCRN includes:

President

Prof. Dr. Nawzia Yasmin

Pro Vice Chancellor, State University of Bangladesh

Vice-President

Dr. Shahida Haque

Sr. Research Specialist, BCCP

Treasurer

Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan

Additional Program Director, Bangladesh Hypertension Control Initiatives
National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh

General Secretary

Mr. Mohammad Shamimul Islam

Sr. Deputy Director, BCCP and Team Leader, JHSPH-BCCP Tobacco Control Project

Members

Dr. Sohel Reza Choudhury

Professor and Head, Department of Epidemiology and Research, National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute

Mr. Palash Chandra Banik, MPhil (NCD)

Associate Professor

Department of Noncommunicable Diseases
Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS)

Ms. Farzana Rahman

OneHealth Expert

BTCRN Website

BTCRN has developed a resourceful website to act as a research hub for tobacco control in Bangladesh. The key findings of the research studies conducted under the Tobacco Control Research Grant Program are made available on the website. The website also posts links of other research studies on tobacco control that are being conducted by other organizations.



btcn.org

Research Grant Recipients 2025 and their Abstracts

Researcher Category





Mir Alamgir Hossain

Research Title:

Assessing Compliance at Trains and Railway Stations and Knowledge, Attitudes, and Implementation Challenges Related to Tobacco Control Law among Railway Employees and Passengers

Mir Alamgir Hossain is a senior Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) officer currently serving as Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Railways, Government of Bangladesh. He holds Honours and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Dhaka and joined the civil service in 1999. He provides strategic leadership in policy formulation, regulatory compliance, and cross-sectoral coordination within the railway sector. As Project Director of the Initiative to Make Bangladesh Railways Tobacco Free (IMBRTF), Phase III, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Vital Strategies, he has led institutional reforms aimed at strengthening tobacco control enforcement across railway jurisdictions. The Ministry of Railways (MoR) officially adopted guidelines for implementing WHO FCTC Article 5.3 in June 2023, aimed at preventing tobacco industry interference in the railway sector. He served as the Member Secretary of the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 guideline adoption committee. The Ministry of Railways (MoR) has received both national and international awards for its contributions to tobacco control. He has received professional training in Bangladesh and participated in several international programs, including the South Asia Tobacco Control Leadership Program in Sri Lanka, the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer Online Legal Training Course on Law and NCDs, the Global Tobacco Control: Learning from the Experts Course, the Philippines Exposure Visit on Tobacco Control, and the McCabe Centre Advanced Workshop on Law and Tobacco Control in Melbourne, Australia. In addition, he has actively attended several national and international conferences, seminars, and meetings, further strengthening his expertise and global engagement. His work bridges research, policy, and implementation, contributing to effective public health governance in a non-health sector setting.

Assessing Compliance at Trains and Railway Stations and Knowledge, Attitudes, and Implementation Challenges Related to Tobacco Control Law among Railway Employees and Passengers

Author: **Mir Alamgir Hossain**

Background: Bangladesh's Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005 (amended 2013), prohibits smoking in public places and public transport, including railway stations and trains. Despite the legal framework, enforcement in the Bangladesh Railway (BR) settings is perceived as weak, which undermines compliance norms and increases the risk of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure for passengers. **Objectives:** To assess smoke-free law compliance in railway stations and trains within BR jurisdictions and to examine knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) related to tobacco control and enforcement among passengers and BR employees. **Methods:** A mixed-methods cross-sectional study was conducted in Bangladesh Railway's East and West Zones and covered four operational divisions: Dhaka, Chattogram, Pakshi, and Lalmonirhat. Structured observations were completed in 10 purposively selected stations and on 5 intercity trains using checklists. KAP surveys were administered face-to-face using semi-structured questionnaires among 445 passengers recruited at stations using systematic sampling, and to 131 BR employees drawn from 12 departments. Ten Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted with stakeholders from government, railway, law enforcement, civil society, and station users, using KII guidelines. Quantitative data were summarized using descriptive statistics and KAP scoring and regression analyses of KAP variation by respondent characteristics; qualitative data were analyzed thematically to identify implementation constraints and enabling factors. **Results:** Active smoking was observed in all 10 stations (341 adults; 49 minors); enforcement action was observed in only one station. No-smoking signage was displayed at 8 of the 10 station entrances; among 134 signs, 46% fully compliant. Nine of ten stations had tobacco outlets (26 permanent, 3 temporary), with external shops also selling through boundary fences. Across 10 stations, 50% of platforms and 100% of rail-lines exhibited moderate-to-high cigarette butt density. On trains, active smoking was observed on 60% of routes, mainly non-AC, with only one enforcement instance. Despite no-smoking signage being present across all 5 trains, none of the signs (53) were fully compliant. Of 194 tobacco-using passengers, 90% were male; in the past 30 days, 41% smoked at stations and 18% on trains, but only 6% and 15%, respectively, were verbally warned, mostly by fellow passengers, with no mobile-court intervention reported. Overall, 91% of passengers knew smoking was punishable, and the majority (82%) strongly agreed with 100% smoke-free stations and trains. Among non-smokers, 71% reported SHS exposure at stations and 44% inside trains. Among BR employees, 97% were aware of the national tobacco control law, 58% of the Railway Ministry's tobacco-free guideline, 73.3% of the ban on tobacco sales at stations/trains, and 97% of the ban on smoking in uniform. Knowledge of the enforcement authority respondents was mixed, as 72% identified the Class-I officers' role, and 64% knew they could remove smokers, yet among authorities working at stations, 17% were unaware of the role, and 33% were unaware they could remove smokers. Only 34% reported attending tobacco-control training or workshops. Key informants attributed weak enforcement to unclear authority, reliance on magistracy for penalties, staffing constraints, open station designs, competing duties, and limited budgets for awareness and monitoring, with current monitoring systems mostly informal observations. **Conclusion:** Smoke-free compliance in stations and trains remains low, and several factors related to awareness, authority, resources, and monitoring contribute to weak enforcement. Implementation should prioritize clarifying enforcement authority, recurrent staff training, ensuring legally compliant high-visibility signage, and routine monitoring with accountability at stations and trains.



Abu Hossain Muhammad Ahsan

Research Title:

E-Cigarette Marketing and Its Influence on Smoking Behavior among Young Adults in Bangladesh

Abu Hossain Muhammad Ahsan is a Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Mr. Ahsan has over 25 years of research and consulting expertise in addition to 22 years of teaching experience. He has worked on numerous research projects with several international donor organizations as a Principal Investigator and Consultant, including the World Bank, UNDP, USAID, DFID, JICA, CARE, Concern, OXFAM, IFRC, the Asia Foundation, etc. Mr. Ahsan's research interests encompass a broad range of research areas, including local governance, education administration, e-governance, public health, disaster management, institutional governance, public trust, etc. He has a good command of qualitative research techniques and comprehensive knowledge of quantitative research methods. Mr. Ahsan has published more than 30 research articles, mostly in international journals from renowned publishers, such as Oxford University Press, Elsevier, Springer Nature, SAGE, Routledge, Emerald, Heliyon, Frontiers, and Taylor & Francis.

E-Cigarette Marketing and Its Influence on Smoking Behavior among Young Adults in Bangladesh

Author: **Abu Hossain Muhammad Ahsan**

Background: E-cigarettes are harmful like conventional tobacco sticks, and some studies advocate that e-cigarettes are more harmful than traditional tobacco products. Manufacturers and sellers have targeted young adults through striking advertisements and influencers' partnerships, raising concerns about their impacts on smoking behaviors, which are mostly high in lower-middle-income countries, like Bangladesh. Limited evidence exists on how marketing tactics and illicit supply chains shape youth access and dependence. **Objectives:** To explore the trends and patterns of e-cigarette marketing strategies and evaluate how they influence the smoking behavior of young adults in Bangladesh. **Methods:** A mixed-methods approach was employed covering relevant targeted geographical areas of Dhaka and Chattogram cities. Quantitative data were collected through a structured survey of 400 young adult e-cigarette users, identified using purposive sampling, from public gathering places where young people spend their time, including urban parks, cultural centers, educational institutions, points of sale, etc. Nicotine dependence was evaluated using the Penn State Electronic Cigarette Dependence Index (PSECDI), with predictors analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics, ordered probit, and OLS regression models. Qualitative data were obtained through In-depth Interviews (IDIs) with supply chain stakeholders, utilizing thematic analysis to explore informal marketing and illicit importation channels. **Results:** Among the survey respondents, 80% were regular e-cigarette users (20% occasional), predominantly male, and from higher academic and better financial backgrounds. Notably, 73% were dual users of e-cigarettes and conventional cigarettes. Nearly all used social media, especially Facebook (96%), Instagram (77%), and YouTube (57%), and 38% used OTT platforms, particularly Netflix (34%). It was found that social media served as the primary tool for awareness, with 36% of users first discovering e-cigarettes through these platforms. Digital advertisement or promotion exposure was nearly universal, led by Facebook (67%) and Instagram (44%), with emerging visibility on OTT platforms like Netflix (16%). Engagement was highly interactive, as 49% of users actively followed e-cigarette brand pages or shops on social media, and 40% maintained contact for purchases or updates. Besides, 32% purchased e-cigarettes through online platforms. Respondents reported no difficulty in accessing products, whether online or from physical shops. The PSECDI results revealed that 89% of users exhibited dependence on e-cigarettes, comprising 36% showing high, 31% medium, and 22% low dependence. The regression analysis identified frequent Facebook use (OR = 1.97, 95% CI: 1.18-3.29) and perceptions of a glamorous lifestyle among e-cigarette users (OR = 1.13, 95% CI: 1.02-1.25) as significant predictors of dependence. Qualitative findings revealed that despite legal restrictions, e-cigarettes continue to enter the market through informal and illicit channels, including exploiting passenger luggage, misdeclaring products by mixing them with legal shipments, and leveraging customs connections to facilitate clearance. Law enforcement monitoring appeared inadequate, while supply chain stakeholders were reluctant to disclose information. This suggested that additional undisclosed mechanisms of illegal importation may persist, allowing e-cigarettes to remain accessible to the target demographic. **Conclusion:** The regulation is being systematically bypassed by sophisticated illicit supply chains and stealth social media strategies, which ultimately provide easy accessibility and exposure, shaping awareness and dependence among young adults. Future interventions should prioritize strengthening monitoring and enforcement of illegal supply chains, digital surveillance, strict advertising enforcement, and the de-glamorization of e-cigarettes through targeted public health counter-narratives.



Tania Ahmed Chowdhury

Research Title:

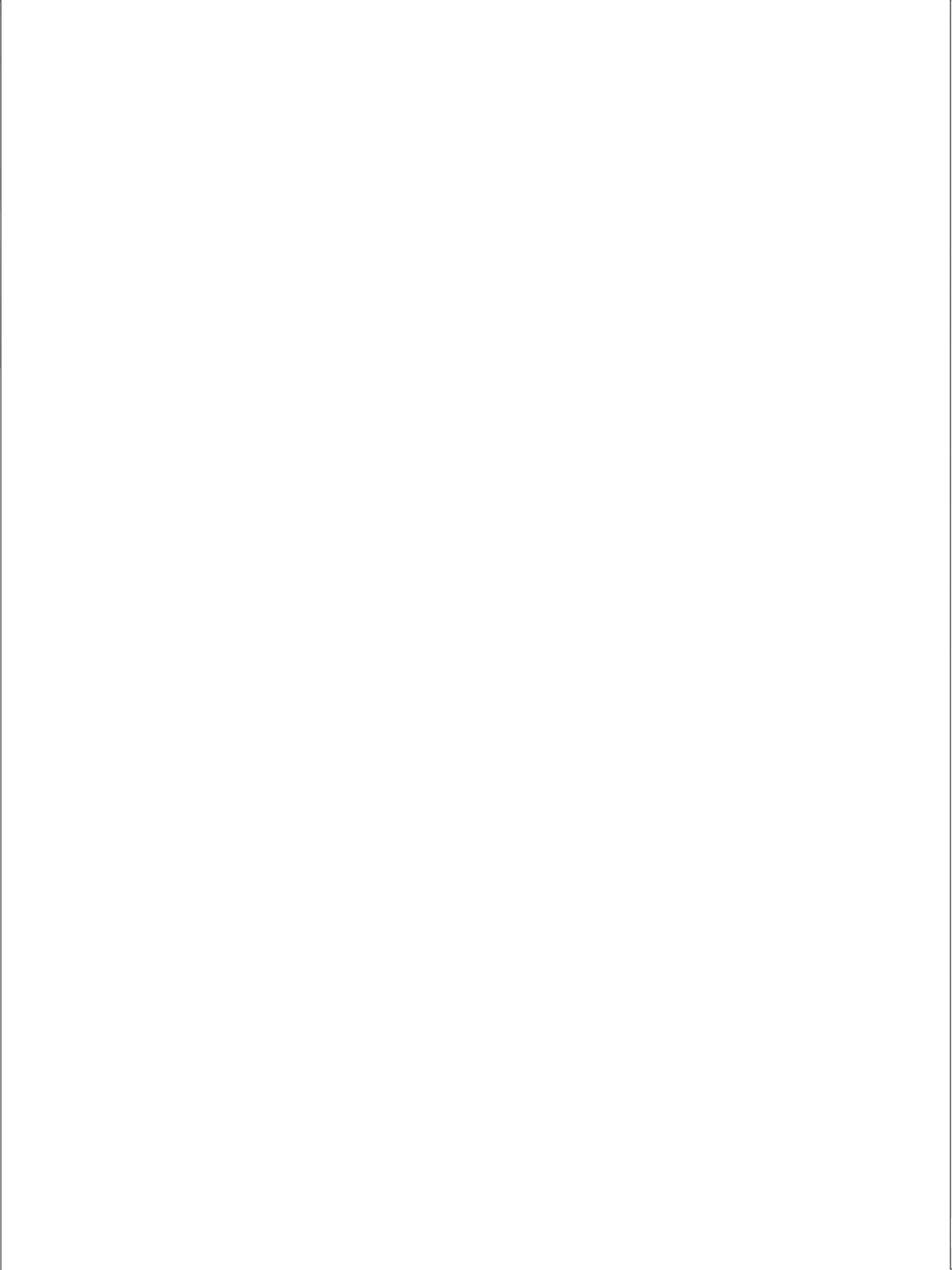
Tobacco Imagery in Over-the-Top (OTT) Platforms and Its Compliance with Existing Tobacco Control Regulations in Bangladesh: A Content Analysis

Tania Ahmed Chowdhury is a public health and research professional with over 14 years of experience in national and international organizations. She holds an MPH in Epidemiology from the State University of Bangladesh, an MSc and BSc in Statistics from the University of Dhaka, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management. She also completed a Diploma in Population Health Informatics from BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health and City University of New York, and an executive course in Monitoring and Evaluation from the Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands. Professionally, she has worked with WHO, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières, and Radda MCH-FP Centre. Her research work spans tobacco control, mental health, nutrition, reproductive and maternal health, health systems, and community-based interventions. She has led and contributed to multiple studies on health information systems, community gardening and nutrition, COVID-19 impacts, and urban health. She has published several peer-reviewed articles in international journals, such as *Advances in Infectious Diseases*, *International Business Research*, *American Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation*, *Cogent Business & Management*, and *International Journal of Rural Development*, and *Environment and Health Research*. Her core expertise includes epidemiology, biostatistics, health informatics, monitoring and evaluation, policy analysis and advanced data analysis.

Tobacco Imagery in Over-the-Top (OTT) Platforms and Its Compliance with Existing Tobacco Control Regulations in Bangladesh: A Content Analysis

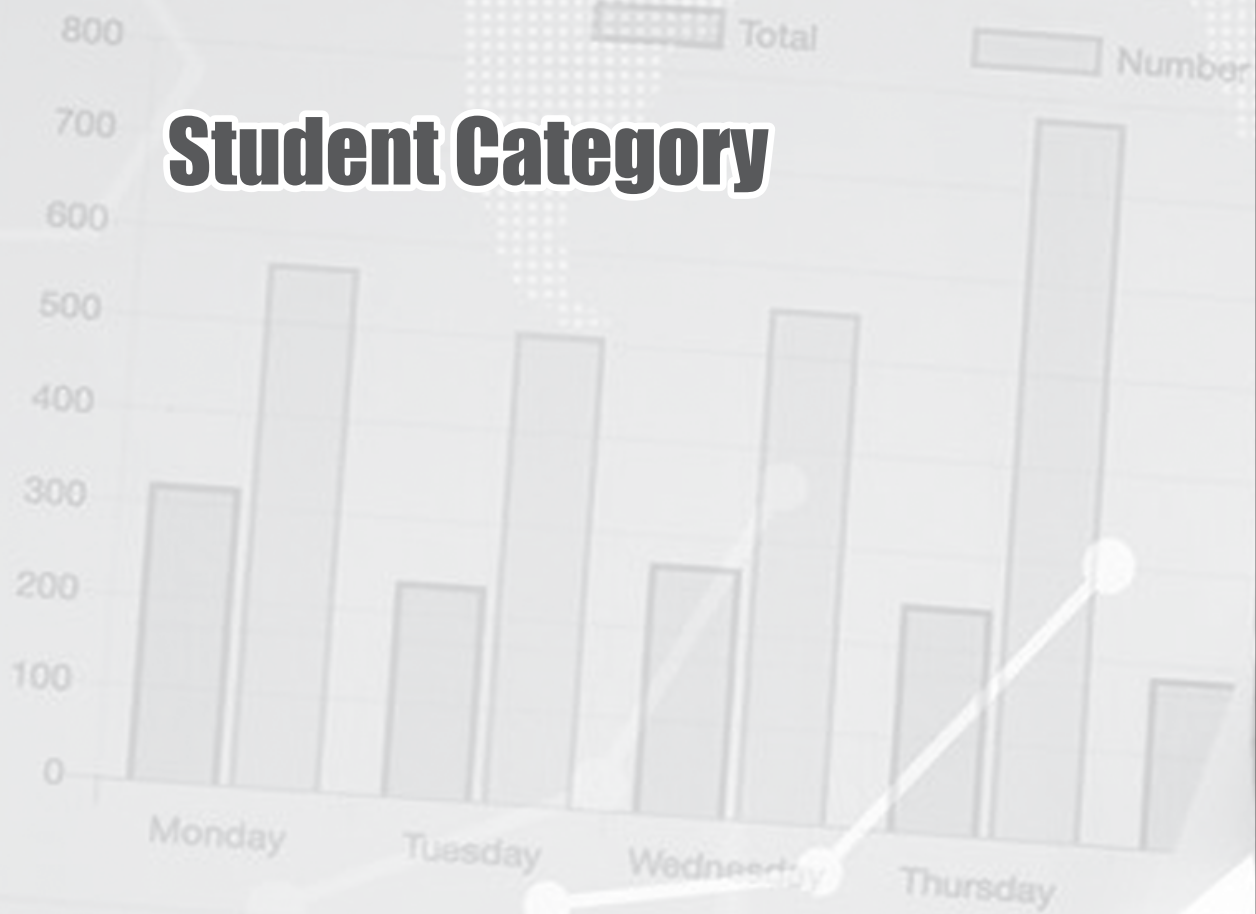
Author: **Tania Ahmed Chowdhury**

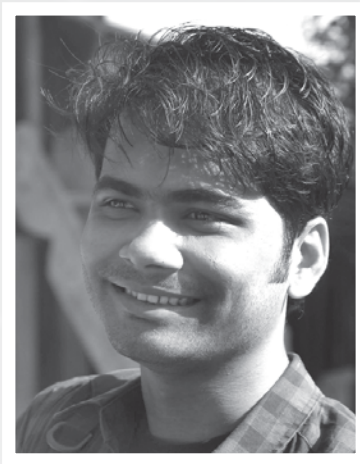
Background: The rapid expansion of Over-The-Top (OTT) streaming platforms presents new challenges for tobacco control in Bangladesh, where digital media regulation is limited. OTT services have shifted audiences from traditional television and cinema to internet-based streaming. Global research shows that tobacco imagery is pervasive and influential in shaping youth attitudes toward smoking. These portrayals frequently glamorize smoking and omit health warnings, contradicting principles of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In Bangladesh, although the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005 (amended in 2013) exists, enforcement on OTT platforms remains weak. Smartphone penetration and affordable internet have accelerated OTT adoption, with web series and movies being the most popular. **Objectives:** To examine the presence and portrayal of tobacco in digital media on popular OTT platforms in Bangladesh, assess compliance with national tobacco control regulations, and understand its potential influence on youth behavior. **Methods:** This observational study assessed the frequency, nature, and regulatory compliance of tobacco-related content in OTT films and web series in Bangladesh. It analyzed 627 most popular contents released mainly in 2023–2024 across nine platforms: Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, SonyLIV, Hoichoi, Chorki, Bioscope, Bongo, Binge, and iScreen. A structured coding checklist captured type, prominence, narrative role, and health-warning compliance. Besides, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with males and females aged 18–35 examined perceived lifestyle impacts. **Results:** A total of 627 films and web series from nine OTT platforms were analyzed. Tobacco imagery appeared in 54% of all titles, with 1,578 individual tobacco-related scenes recorded. Smoking tobacco appeared in nearly all instances (97%), with cigarettes alone comprising 79%, while smokeless tobacco accounted for 2%. Male characters represented over 80% of tobacco use, though a growing presence among female characters was observed, particularly in international content. Drama (37%) and action/fantasy (20%) genres contained the highest concentration of tobacco scenes. Among 1,578 coded instances, they most frequently appear as behavioral expressions (615), followed by social and cultural frames (459) and emotional states (445), with criminality/negativity (306) and depressed or stressed emotions (406) being the most dominant sub-contexts. Compliance with the national tobacco control law was poor. Only 33% of contents displayed health warning messages at the beginning, and just 38% of tobacco scenes included any warning. Among these, 41% were too small, blurred, or faded to be readable. None met the legal requirements for screen placement, size, or background color. Moreover, 37% of Bangladeshi productions lacked maturity ratings, allowing youth unrestricted exposure to tobacco imagery. Insights from the FGDs revealed that young viewers regard OTT platforms as an essential part of their daily lives, consumed during leisure, commutes, or study breaks. Participants described smoking scenes as stylish and emotionally powerful, particularly when associated with admired actors or dramatic moments. While most participants were aware of the health risks of tobacco use, they felt that the absence of meaningful health warnings diluted those messages. **Conclusion:** OTT and digital platforms in Bangladesh continue to expose audiences to tobacco imagery. Strong enforcement—through mandatory health warnings, penalties, age-based filters, and coordinated action by authorities and streaming providers is essential to ensure the law’s effectiveness and protect public health, supporting the country’s tobacco-free goal.



Research Grant Recipients 2025 and their Abstracts

Student Category





Dr. Prabal Sharma

Research Title:

Utilizing Health Development Surcharge to Promote Sustainable Engagement of Civil Society in Tobacco Control: Challenges and Way Out

Dr. Prabal Sharma is a physician and public health researcher dedicated to advancing population health through evidence-based research and policy innovation. He earned his MBBS from Sir Salimullah Medical College and later completed a Master of Public Health (MPH) at Bangladesh Medical University, with a strong focus on epidemiology and health promotion. Currently, Dr. Sharma serves as a Research Officer at Bangladesh Medical University, where he is actively involved in public health research and program evaluation. His research interests include tobacco control, non-communicable disease prevention, physical activity, and health promotion interventions. He has worked with renowned institutions such as icddr,b and CIPRB and was awarded a competitive research grant from the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) with financial assistance from the John Hopkins University.

Utilizing Health Development Surcharge to Promote Sustainable Engagement of Civil Society in Tobacco Control: Challenges and Way Out

Author: **Dr. Prabal Sharma**

Background: The Health Development Surcharge (HDS) in Bangladesh is a promising domestic funding source to support civil society engagement in tobacco control. In 2014, a 1% ad valorem tax, designated as the HDS, was applied to all tobacco products manufactured and imported in Bangladesh, followed by the official gazetting of the HDS Management Policy in 2017. Since its introduction, the surcharge has been collected and deposited into the government treasury. However, weak implementation of policies and administrative challenges have limited its effective use. **Objectives:** This study aimed to assess barriers to effective HDS utilization, evaluate funding needs and capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and identify priority areas and strategies for the sustainable allocation of surcharge funds. **Methods:** This mixed-methods study included 18 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and 2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with stakeholders from government and CSOs, along with a nationwide survey of 97 CSOs across Bangladesh. The qualitative component explored barriers to fund utilization and identified potential strategies for improvement, while the quantitative component assessed the funding status and capacity needs of CSOs. **Results:** Four major barriers were identified: unclear legal and spending frameworks due to the lack of specific guidelines, implementation plans, and designated economic codes; institutional constraints, including limited capacity of the National Tobacco Control Cell, weak coordination between ministries, and frequent leadership changes; interference from the tobacco industry and conflicts of interest; and weak accountability mechanisms, reflected in inactive taskforces and limited use of digital monitoring systems. Most surveyed CSOs were non-governmental organizations (92%) and operated mainly at the local level (70%). Their work focused largely on awareness-raising activities (92%), while fewer organizations were involved in monitoring and enforcement (33%) or research (30%). Financial capacity was limited: 78% relied on self-fundraising, and 24% had no dedicated funding for tobacco control. The median annual expenditure was BDT 35,000 (IQR: 15,000-54,000), ranging from BDT 4,000 to BDT 80,00,000. The median funding gap was BDT 1,12,499.5 (IQR: 50,000-3,00,000), with gaps ranging from BDT 5,000 to BDT 50,00,000. Key capacity needs identified by CSOs included better coordination with government and donors (75%), training on tobacco control policies and laws (74%), and stronger fundraising and proposal development skills (73%). **Conclusion:** The HDS can sustainably provide financial support for CSO-led tobacco control activities if accompanied by legal and operational reforms. Establishing a clear legal framework with specific guidelines, generating a specific economic code for disbursement, and creating a structured and transparent CSO funding mechanism such as a health promotion foundation or competitive grant program, strengthening NTCC authority, deploying digital monitoring and taskforce activation, and insulating governance from industry influence are all crucial to converting HDS revenues into a sustained, accountable public health impact.



Shilajit Kumar Roy

Research Title:

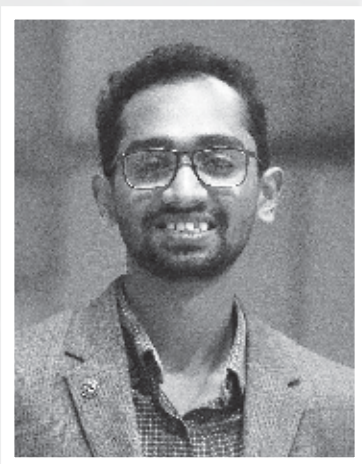
**The Presence and Regulation of On-Campus Smoking Tobacco Sales:
Evidence from Public Universities in Khulna and Barishal Divisions**

Shilajit Kumar Roy is a student grantee of the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant 2025. He earned his LL.B. (Hons.) and LL.M. from Khulna University, where he developed a strong interest in socio-legal research during his early undergraduate years. He has authored several scholarly articles, presented papers at national and international conferences, and written on contemporary legal issues in leading newspapers. He served as Co-Editor and later as Editor-in-Chief of the Law and Society Students' Journal, the country's first DOAJ-indexed students' journal. In recognition of his strong commitment to research, he received the Khulna University Day Award 2024 in the Research and Innovation category. After completing his Master's degree, he began his academic career as a Lecturer at a private university. Currently, he works as a Legal Advice Officer at the Directorate of Bangladesh Legal Aid under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The Presence and Regulation of On-Campus Smoking Tobacco Sales: Evidence from Public Universities in Khulna and Barishal Divisions

Author: **Shilajit Kumar Roy**

Background: Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death in Bangladesh, accounting for over 161,000 deaths annually. While the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act 2005 (amended in 2013) classifies educational institutions as smoke-free public places, enforcement remains a challenge. Public universities, characterized by large residential campuses, significantly shape student lifestyles. However, the presence and regulation of tobacco sales inside these campuses remain a critical policy blind spot. **Objectives:** The primary objective of this study was to investigate the presence of on-campus tobacco sales within public universities in the Khulna and Barishal divisions and to evaluate how university authorities regulate these practices. **Methods:** The study utilized an explanatory sequential mixed-method design and was conducted across five public universities in the Khulna and Barishal divisions of Bangladesh: Islamic University (IU), Khulna University (KU), Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), University of Barishal (BU), and Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU). Primary data collection involved field observation and GPS mapping of on-campus tobacco shops, structured surveys of 400 student smokers, and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with five university administrators and one University Grants Commission (UGC) official. Spatial distribution was analyzed using Kernel Density Estimation (KDE) in ArcGIS, while quantitative data were processed via SPSS and qualitative data through thematic analysis. **Results:** Field observations identified 43 permanent tobacco-selling shops, primarily tea stalls and general stores, operating within university boundaries. Spatial analysis revealed significant high-density clusters (hotspots) near cafeterias, residential halls, and academic buildings, strategically located to maximize student exposure. Survey data showed that 79.8% of students buy cigarettes from on-campus shops, with 98.4% purchasing single sticks, which indicates affordability. The majority of students (91.5%) have access to these tobacco outlets within a 1 to 5-minute walk from their residential halls or classrooms. Over 56% of respondents reported that the proximity of these shops triggers them to smoke, a finding supported by the Independent Samples Kruskal-Wallis test, which revealed that students within a 1–2 minute walk of tobacco shops exhibited significantly higher nicotine dependency (Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence) compared to those farther away ($p < 0.01$). Despite legal bans, 44.5% of students have seen tobacco branding or promotions in campus shops, and some of them (16.3%) have been offered gifts or discounts by shopkeepers. The findings from the KIIs revealed a lack of concern about the mandatory no-smoking signage and no specific clauses in rent agreement prohibiting tobacco sales in university-rented commercial spaces. Enforcement was found to be fragmented and undermined by a cultural normalization of smoking. The University Grants Commission (UGC) also operates in a reactive and advisory style rather than spearheading enforcement. **Conclusion:** On-campus tobacco sales are pervasive and overt, directly violating national laws and undermining public health goals. The unrestricted availability of single-stick cigarettes in high-traffic student areas serves as a primary driver for smoking behavior. To bridge the gap between policy and practice, the study recommends formal contract reforms to legally ban tobacco sales, proactive monitoring, and strict punitive measures for non-compliance, mandatory installation of no-smoking signage in all the identified hotspots, the establishment of a dedicated tobacco control monitoring cells at universities in coordination with the NTCC, and wide dissemination of relevant laws and circulars, along with the submission of regular compliance reports. The laws exist; the will to enforce them must follow.



Shahriar Kabir Shishir

Research Title:

Supply Chain of Smokeless Tobacco in Rural Bangladesh: Gaps in Regulation and Policy Needs

Shahriar Kabir Shishir is an early-career social research professional with experience in academic and applied research across Bangladesh. He holds BSS and MSS degrees in Local Government and Urban Development from Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University. He currently serves as Principal Investigator at the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), where he is leading a research project on smokeless tobacco. Previously, Shahriar worked as a Research Fellow for TROSA Phase 2 at Oxfam in Bangladesh, contributing to research on governance and resilience among riparian communities. He also completed a project as Project Lead at the Research and Extension Centre, JKKNIU. He contributed as a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Local Government, supporting national research initiatives. As a Training Associate with JAAGO Foundation, he developed facilitator guidelines, trained master trainers, and served as a master trainer in a USAID-funded initiative. He also represented Oxfam as a panelist at the International Youth Conference 2025 in Nepal.

Supply Chain of Smokeless Tobacco in Rural Bangladesh: Gaps in Regulation and Policy Needs

Author: **Shahriar Kabir Shishir**

Background: Smokeless tobacco (SLT) constitutes a significant yet insufficiently regulated segment of Bangladesh's tobacco market, particularly in rural settings where its production, processing, and distribution are structurally embedded in local economies. Despite having similar health consequences to combustible tobacco, SLT remains comparatively under-discussed in public discourse and policy prioritization. Although SLT is included under the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act of 2005 and its amendments, regulatory enforcement remains inconsistently applied across the supply chain, with a lack of effective monitoring mechanisms. **Objectives:** This study aims to analyze the supply chain and regulatory landscape of smokeless tobacco in rural Bangladesh by exploring production, distribution, and sales processes, identifying governance gaps, and proposing targeted policy recommendations. **Methods:** The study adopts a mixed-method design integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches. Two districts were purposively selected to capture supply and demand dynamics: Kushtia as a leading tobacco production area and Mymensingh as a high-consumption region. A multi-stage sampling strategy was employed to collect data from 384 respondents across SLT supply chain stakeholders. Qualitative data were generated through In-depth Interviews (IDIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with growers' association leaders, licensing authorities, agriculture officers, NGO representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data were thematically reviewed with verbatim excerpts. **Results:** Findings reveal a multi-tiered supply chain characterized by strong interdependence among farmers, intermediaries, processors, factories, distributors, and retailers. In production areas, SLT cultivation is frequently supported by formal and informal agreements between tobacco companies and farmers, offering advance payments, inputs, and guaranteed purchase arrangements. Raw tobacco leaves for SLT production are commonly derived from lower-grade or residual leaves after premium-grade procurement by smoking tobacco companies. Respondents reported the existence of SLT factories operating without formal licensing, registration, or adherence to regulatory requirements. Distribution and retail channels largely function through relationship-based informal networks with limited adherence to licensing, packaging, and sales regulations. Access to SLT products remains widespread, with minimal age verification or purchasing restrictions. From producers to consumers, stakeholders reported limited exposure to regulatory barriers or enforcement actions in routine SLT-related activities. Regulatory oversight remains fragmented and unevenly implemented. Inspections are infrequent and concentrated primarily at the retail stage rather than at cultivation, processing, or distribution levels. Oversight of factory registration, packaging standards, and traceability mechanisms is limited, while coordination among local government, agricultural, and health authorities remains weak, resulting in discontinuous regulation across stages. **Conclusion:** The study concludes that strengthening SLT control in rural Bangladesh requires systematic, stage-specific oversight supported by clearer regulatory guidelines tailored to smokeless tobacco. Policy priorities include formalizing the current relationship-based supply chain arrangements through improved monitoring of farmer-company agreements, ensuring factory registration and license verification, enhancing inter-agency coordination, expanding inspection coverage beyond retail outlets, and establishing traceability mechanisms to improve accountability across the supply chain.



Mst. Sumaya Akter Prova

Research Title:

The Impact of Social Media and Peer Influence on the E-Cigarette Use among Youth: Behavioral Trends and Public Health Implications

Mst. Sumaya Akter Prova is a dedicated young researcher with a solid academic foundation in Health Economics, holding a Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) degree from the Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka. She is currently continuing her Master of Social Science (MSS) program at the University of Dhaka. Mst. Prova successfully completed an internship on “Assessment of the Impact of Plinth Raising on the Health of the Plinth Dwellers,” supported by the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Her passion for research and community development is evident through her extensive involvement in various research projects and leadership roles. Her research interests focus on public health, tobacco control, and the development of health policy.

The Impact of Social Media and Peer Influence on the E-Cigarette Use among Youth: Behavioral Trends and Public Health Implications

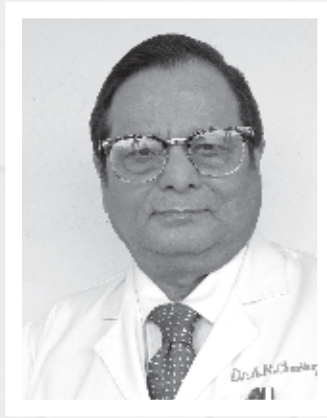
Author: **Mst. Sumaya Akter Prova**

Background: The use of e-cigarettes is rising rapidly among youth in Bangladesh, posing significant public health risks despite tobacco control efforts. While some studies have looked at vaping prevalence, there is limited research on how social media and peer interactions influence youth behavior regarding e-cigarette use. Understanding these social factors is crucial for developing effective prevention and regulatory strategies. **Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate the influence of social media and peer interactions on e-cigarette use among youth in Bangladesh, with a focus on behavioral factors and their public health implications. **Methods:** A mixed-methods research design was utilized, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. A structured survey was conducted with 404 university students from two public universities, two private universities, and two National University-affiliated colleges in Dhaka, using non-random sampling procedure. Additionally, 12 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were held with tobacco control and public health experts. Quantitative data were analyzed with descriptive and inferential statistics, including logistic regression, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically. **Results:** The majority of survey respondents (86%) were aged between 20–25 years, and 72% were male. Over half of the respondents (53%) reported that social media actively promotes e-cigarettes. Facebook was identified as the most influential platform (87%), followed by YouTube (54%) and Instagram (48%). Marketing strategies such as online advertisements (72%), availability of digital payment systems (52%), celebrity influence (39%), positive online reviews (37%), and free home delivery (30%) were key factors enhancing accessibility and normalizing e-cigarette use. Peer influence also emerged as a significant determinant. A total of 58% of respondents agreed that peer pressure increases the likelihood of using e-cigarettes. Curiosity (52%), social media trends (44%), social acceptance (42%), and the perception of vaping as modern or fashionable (38%) were major peer-related motivators. Notably, 51% of respondents perceived e-cigarettes to be safer than conventional cigarettes, reflecting persistent misconceptions. These findings also reflect a broader social environment where the use of e-cigarettes is normalized through both online and offline peer networks, although 77% recognized health risks such as cancer (73%), lung damage (68%), and breathing problems (56%), respectively. Logistic regression analyses, regarding the relationship between e-cigarette use and different types of social media content exposure, showed that respondents exposed to influencer or celebrity videos related content had significantly higher odds of e-cigarette use both in univariable analysis (OR = 3.21, $p < 0.001$) and after adjustment (AOR = 3.03, 95% CI: 1.60–5.84, $p = 0.001$). This suggests that influencer-driven media is a major predictor of youth vaping behavior. Furthermore, logistic regression analysis also showed that perceived peer pressure was associated with increased e-cigarette use; respondents who perceived peer pressure as a factor were 1.55 times more likely to report lifetime e-cigarette use (AOR = 1.55, 95% CI: 1.04–2.33, $p = 0.033$). The qualitative findings indicate that social media, peer pressure, flavored products, and discreet device designs strongly influence youth. **Conclusion:** The study highlights a complex interaction of social media influence, peer dynamics, marketing strategies, and misconceptions driving the increasing use of e-cigarettes among youth in Bangladesh. Strengthened regulations, strong inter-ministerial coordination, targeted awareness campaigns, and active enforcement are essential to address this growing public health challenge.

RESEARCH FINDINGS DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE 2026

Poster Session





Professor Dr. ArupRatan Choudhury

Founder President of MANAS- Madok Draba O Nesha Nirodh Sangstah

Counter Tobacco Industry Interferences: An Example of Utilizing Mass Media in Bangladesh

Authors: Professor Dr. ArupRatan Choudhury*, Md. Abu Rayhan, Aminul Islam Sujon

Background: National news media has a vital role for effective advocacy on any issues including tobacco control. But media placement is expensive. Earning media coverage is crucial for various social issues. MANAS (Madok Draba O Nesha Nirodh Sangstha/Association for the Prevention of Drug Abuse) is working to produced media pieces in the prominent print media in Bangladesh. **Objectives:** To use print and online newspaperers to sensitize stakeholders about banning designated smoking areas in all public places and transport, restricting point-of-sale tobacco advertisement, and regulating CSR activities through amendments to the tobacco control law, as well as to direct media attantion toward tobacco industry interference and promotion of smoking cessation. **Interventions:** During January 2023 to January 2025, MANAS President Professor Dr. ArupRatan Choudhury wrote 21 articles (op-ed/opinion). Collectively, these 21 articles were published 21 times separately in various national dailies. Newspapers included those with highest circulation such as Bangladesh Pratidin and Daily Prothom Alo that has about half-million subscriptions. While Jugantor, Ittefaq, Amader Shomoy, Janakantha, Sangbad, Samakal, Kalbela, and Dainik Bangla jointly have about 1.6 million subscriptions. Collectively, all these newspapers have more than 2.1 million subscribers for their printed newspaper and get 20 million daily visitors to their websites and various social media pages. Highlighted issues were. **Results:** MANAS President articles reached nearly 27.6 million (27,637,199) people. Economic value of these printed articles is more than BDT 13,579,500 (approximately US\$ 112,000) that MANAS earned only through motivation of the editors. These articles sensitized a large number of government officials, policy-makers and others relevant stakeholders towards the prevention of tobacco industry interferences. They also support ongoing movement for further amendment of the Tobacco Control law and make people aware about the harm & health hazards of tobacco use. **Conclusion:** Continued engagement of prominent media personality to write articles to counter tobacco industry interferences is likely to contribute to effective tobacco control policies in Bangladesh.



Dr. Bilkis Banu

Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Knowledge and Insights into Smoking Tobacco Use among Attendants of Hospitalized Patients in Bangladesh: A Demographic Analysis

Authors: Dr. Bilkis Banu*, Shuvajit Saha, Tahsin Tasneem Tabassum

Background: Tobacco use remains a major public health challenge in Bangladesh, contributing substantially to preventable morbidity and mortality. Attendants of hospitalized patients constitute an important yet understudied group, as their tobacco use may negatively affect patients' health through passive smoking and other harmful exposures. Understanding attendants' knowledge and insights into smoking tobacco use, and the associated demographic factors, is essential for developing targeted tobacco control and health education interventions. **Objectives:** The objective of this study was to assess the knowledge and insights into smoking tobacco use among attendants of selected hospitalized patients in Bangladesh. **Methods:** An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted among 139 adults attending patients hospitalized at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire that included information on knowledge of tobacco (consequences, passive smoking, tobacco control laws), smoking tobacco use (types, frequency, initiation age), and socio-demographic characteristics. Bivariate and multivariate techniques were adopted to analyze the data. **Results:** This study found that a majority of participants (80; 57.6%) had a poor level of knowledge about tobacco. Approximately one-third of participants (45; 32.3%) reported using smoking tobacco in various forms, including cigarettes (84.5%), bidi (13.3%), and e-cigarettes (2.2%). Nearly three-quarter (73.4%) were daily consumers, while 26.6% reported occasional use. The mean age of smoking initiation was 18.60 ± 3.56 years. Poor knowledge was significantly more prevalent among male respondents than female study subjects (AOR = 2.71; $p = 0.01$). Furthermore, a significantly higher likelihood of tobacco use was observed among respondents with poor knowledge compared to those with good knowledge (AOR = 4.54; $p = 0.01$). **Conclusion:** Poor knowledge about tobacco was common among attendants of hospitalized patients in Bangladesh and was significantly associated with higher tobacco use, particularly among males. Targeted hospital-based tobacco education and cessation interventions focusing on attendants, especially male caregivers, are recommended to reduce tobacco use and protect patients from passive smoking.



A K M Maksud

Executive Director, Grambangla Unnayan Committee

Interventions for Enforcement of Bans of Tobacco Control Laws and the Changing Situations of Tobacco Advertising in Barishal Division of Bangladesh

Authors: A K M Maksud*, Afia Anjum Raisa, Tahsin Aziz Swapno, Md. Ali Azman Shaik, A B K Reza

Background: With the support from the Vital Strategies and the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, Grambangla Unnayan Committee has been implementing projects for strengthening institutional mechanism of enforcement agencies and Local Government Institutions to implement tobacco control laws in Bangladesh. Interventions of these projects have had remarkable effects in reducing the rate and changing the pattern of tobacco advertising. **Objectives:** The broad objective of this article is to show the effects of project interventions in reducing the rate and changing the pattern of tobacco advertising in Barishal division of Bangladesh. **Methods:** Census is the primary method for data collection of this study. A census was conducted on 6820 Points of Sale (POS) of tobacco products in 18 towns of Barishal division. Census was carried out in three different time points - 2019, 2023 and 2025 covering all the POS to document changes in the rate and pattern of tobacco advertising. Observation and one-on-one interview were the other two methods of data collection. **Results:** Different types of interventions were implemented for facilitating the enforcement of bans on tobacco advertisements. During the period of May 2023-April 2025, project interventions were implemented for institutional system development of Tobacco Control Task Force Committees and Local Government Institutions to enforce bans on tobacco advertisements, mobile court operations, POS monitoring visits by Authorized Officers, imposing of fines and removal of advertisements at municipal areas. Three series of census data were collected to find the changes of interventions. Findings show that 2.6 percent, 31.3 percent and 42.0 percent of all POS were free from tobacco advertisements respectively in 2019, 2023 and 2025. Findings also show that the average number of advertisements per POS were 3.2, 1.4 and 0.79 respectively in 2019, 2023 and 2025. Three periodic surveillance data on POS shows that there is a general decreasing trend of tobacco advertisement materials at the POS. The prevalence of stickers, empty or large dummy cigarette packet display, prominent display shelves, leaflets, signage, flyers, and pamphlets decreased at POS across the 18 towns of Barishal division. **Conclusion:** Interference of tobacco companies in promoting tobacco products through aggressive advertisement materials remains a major challenge to the successes of tobacco control. However, the findings indicate that coordinated interventions, including strengthened institutional mechanisms, regular monitoring of POS, and mobile court operations, can significantly reduce the presence of tobacco advertisements.



Md. Bazlur Rahman

Associate Professor and Project Director, Tobacco Control and Research Cell, Dhaka International University

Digital Tax Tracking and Tracing: An Innovative Approach to Ensure Tobacco Tax Implementation and Address Tax Evasion in Bangladesh

Authors: Md. Bazlur Rahman*, Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, Swarnil Mondal, Farhana Zaman Liza, Bivuti Bhushon Mahato, Md. Zulhas Ahmed, Md. Rahat Rahman

Background: An efficient tobacco tax system is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce tobacco consumption. Bangladesh features a complex tiered system for smoking tobacco and a self-declared system for smokeless tobacco, creating scope for price manipulations and tax evasion. Improving tax administration through efficient and effective digital tax tracking and tracing mechanisms can ensure tax avoidance and evasion, including monitoring from tobacco cultivation through consumption.

Objectives: The paper examines the existing tax system, identifies its obstacles, and introduces a digital tobacco tax model. **Methods:** The research employed a qualitative approach in two distinct phases. The first phase involved examining legislative documents, journals, and proposals related to tobacco taxation, highlighting weaknesses in the administration of Bangladesh's tobacco tax. The second phase included field observations across 64 districts and 265 wholesale markets to examine the tobacco supply chain and prioritize necessary policy enhancements. Additionally, comparative case studies were analyzed from Kenya, the UAE, and Georgia. **Results:** The findings indicate that the current tobacco tax system has significant enforcement flaws, leading to notable tax evasion and illicit trade. Tobacco control enforcement in Bangladesh faces major challenges across products. Cigarettes suffer from overpricing, counterfeit and re-used tax stamps, and fake banderoles. Bidi production is largely informal, with poor packaging, local distribution, and counterfeit practices. For smokeless tobacco like zordha and gul, unregistered producers, lack of tax identification, unstructured markets, and poor packaging make regulation and enforcement particularly difficult. The proposed tax model incorporates features such as encrypted tax stamps, GPS tracking, and real-time monitoring to enhance surveillance. Digital tax systems implemented in Georgia, Kenya, and the UAE resulted in revenue increases of 5-8%, 10%, and 18-20%, respectively. Georgia and the UAE experienced significant reductions in tax evasion and illicit trade, whereas Kenya continues to struggle with informal markets, which account for 30-40% of illicit trade. The anticipated advantages of this new tax model include improved tax compliance, reduced illicit trade, and better public health outcomes. **Conclusion:** The digital tax tracking and tracing model aims to increase tax revenue, curb illicit trade, and improve public health. Using technologies such as encrypted tax stamps and real-time surveillance, it ensures comprehensive oversight of the supply chain. A well-designed system can significantly improve tax enforcement and public health in Bangladesh, serving as a blueprint for addressing similar challenges globally.



Syeda Anonna Rahman

Head of Program (TC, NCDC), Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust

Citizen Initiative and Legal Success in the Removal of the Tobacco Factory from Mohakhali DOHS: An Advocacy Experience

Authors: Syeda Anonna Rahman*, Aminul Islam Sujon, Azim Khan, Samiul Hasan, Methun Badya

Background: For a long period of time, the tobacco factory operated by British American Tobacco Bangladesh was functioning in Mohakhali DOHS. The factory had adverse impacts on the health of residents as well as on air quality and the environment. The operation of such an industrial facility within a residential area became a serious concern from the perspectives of public health and environmental protection. **Objectives:** To ensure the removal of the tobacco factory located in the residential area and to strengthen policy and legal measures for the protection of public health and the environment. **Interventions:** Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA), Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust, along with several other non-governmental organizations, jointly implemented sustainable advocacy activities. These included: Engaging the mass media; Involving public health, environment and tobacco control experts; Organizing press conferences; Conducting human chain demonstrations and protest programs; Publishing articles and opinion pieces in national newspapers; Organizing online meetings; Promoting through social media platforms; and Sending information and letters to the relevant authorities and maintaining regular communication. **Results:** Following continuous citizen advocacy and legal proceedings, the full bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh issued directives ordering the removal of the tobacco factory of British American Tobacco Bangladesh from the Mohakhali DOHS area. **Conclusion:** This experience demonstrates that coordinated citizen initiatives, media engagement, and strategic legal action can lead to significant policy changes in favor of public health and environmental protection. This model may serve as an effective advocacy reference for the removal of harmful industries from residential areas in the future.



Md. Mehedi Hasan

Head of Digital Media, PROGGA

Bangladesh Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2025: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 in Bangladesh

Authors: Md. Mehedi Hasan*, Mashiati Abedin

Background: Bangladesh is one of the Parties of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and has adopted Article 5.3 Guidelines to protect public health policies from tobacco industry interference. Despite these commitments, tobacco industry influence remains a persistent challenge, particularly during efforts to amend the tobacco control law. The Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Index provides a comprehensive assessment of such interference and government responses. PROGGA (Knowledge for Progress) has been publishing the Bangladesh TII Index since 2018 with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies. **Objectives:** This study aims to assess the extent, nature, and trends of tobacco industry interference in Bangladesh between April 2023 and March 2025, and to evaluate the government's progress in implementing WHO FCTC Article 5.3 through the Bangladesh Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2025. **Methods:** The Index applies a standardized methodology developed by the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), using 20 indicators aligned with FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines. Data were collected exclusively from publicly available sources, including government documents, media reports, and official communications. Each indicator was scored on a scale of 0–5, where higher scores indicate greater industry interference. Comparative trend analysis was conducted using data from previous Bangladesh TII Index reports since 2018. **Results:** Bangladesh scored 69 out of 100 in the 2025 TII Index, reflecting a marginal improvement from the 2023 score of 72 but indicating continued high levels of industry interference. Interference intensified around efforts to amend the tobacco control law, with extensive involvement of third-party actors, front groups, and non-health ministries. Persistent challenges included lack of transparency, conflicts of interest, unnecessary interactions, and continued government investment in tobacco companies. Notable positive developments included the adoption of FCTC Article 5.3 implementation guidelines by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Railway. **Conclusion:** Despite minor progress, the status of Bangladesh remains largely stagnant in countering tobacco industry interference. Comprehensive implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 at all levels/sectors of the government, stronger transparency measures, and decisive actions to eliminate conflicts of interest are urgently required to safeguard public health policymaking and advance effective tobacco control.



Farhana Zaman Liza

Project Coordinator, Tobacco Control and Research Cell, Dhaka International University

Tobacco Control Law Enforcement in Public Places and Public Transport: Evidence from Eight Divisional Cities of Bangladesh

Authors: Farhana Zaman Liza*, Md. Zulhas Ahmed, Md. Bazlur Rahman, Bivuti Bhushon Mahato,
Md. Rahat Rahman, Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary

Background: Tobacco use is a major cause of non-communicable diseases and premature deaths in Bangladesh. The government enacted the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act in 2005, strengthened by a 2013 amendment, to create smoke-free environments, limit tobacco advertising, and protect the youth from tobacco exposure. However, enforcement in public places and transport remains inadequate. This study assesses the current status of law enforcement in these areas. **Objectives:** The primary objective was to assess field-level implementation of key provisions of the Tobacco Control Act in eight divisional cities of Bangladesh, focusing on Smoke-free public places and transport (Section 4), Ban on tobacco advertising, promotion, and display (Section 5), Protection of minors (Section 6(a)), Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) (Sections 7 & 7(a)) and Mandatory “No Smoking” signage (Section 8). **Methods:** The study used a quantitative, cross-sectional observational design with a structured checklist. Conducted from April 2025 to January 2026 in eight divisional cities of Bangladesh, it included all public places and transport defined under the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005 (amended 2013). Observations encompassed accessible establishments and at least one unit of each transport type (bus, train, etc.) for compliance with smoke-free regulations, signage, and tobacco sales to minors. Data were recorded using a checklist in Kobo Toolbox. **Results:** Sections 4 & 8: Smoke-Free Areas and Signage- Only 22% of locations were identified as smoke-free, 56% had some form of no-smoking signage, but only 48% met legal standards, and 56% of locations recorded direct smoking incidents. Section 5: Tobacco Advertising and Display-65% of Points of Sale (POS) displayed advertisements, 85% of shops had tobacco branding materials, and 85% had visible product displays. Section 6(a): Protection of Minors- Tobacco was sold to minors in 38% of observed cases, and underage vendors accounted for 18% of total sales. Sections 7 & 7(a): Designated Smoking Areas (DSA)- Only 8% of locations had DSAs; none of the DSAs complied with legal requirements. Overall Compliance: Overall implementation of law across the eight divisional cities was 57%, with compliance rates of 61% in public places and 71% in public transport. Among the 8 divisional cities, Khulna recorded the highest level of implementation at 68%, while Chattogram had the lowest at 54%. **Conclusion:** The study revealed weaknesses in enforcing the Tobacco Control Act 2005, (amended 2013), including insufficient smoke-free signage, public smoking, unchecked advertising, and minor sales. Effective control requires strong enforcement by trained officials, banning unlicensed sales, strict penalties, routine inspections, digital monitoring, and the full implementation of the 2025 Tobacco Control Amended Ordinance. Coordinated multi-sectoral action is crucial for achieving a tobacco-free Bangladesh.



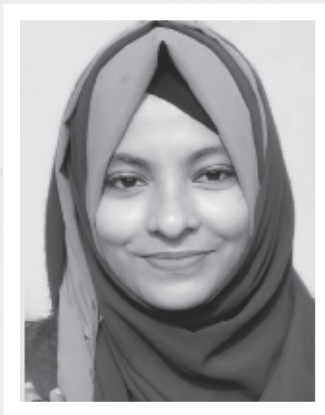
Samiul Hassan Shajib

Senior Project Officer, Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust

An Innovative Approach to Implementing FCTC Article

Authors: Samiul Hassan Shajib*, Syed Mahbubul Alam, Syeda Anonna Rahman,
Methun Baidya, Azim Khan

Background: Despite considerable success in tobacco control over the previous decades, tobacco control advocates have struggled to engage government officials in the proper implementation of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Article 5.3. Policymakers have remained focused on issues such as advertising and product labeling, while ignoring or denying the tobacco industry's interference in policymaking and other areas. **Interventions:** With the aforementioned issue in mind, Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust, in collaboration with Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA), developed a strategy that focused on NGOs and universities rather than government institutions. They informed these institutions about the tobacco industry's tactics, for example, the sponsorship of quizzes and job fairs for youth. WBB called upon those institutions to endorse and disseminate a code of conduct that prohibits them from accepting such sponsorships or working with the tobacco industry. **Responses:** This approach proved effective, as five prominent universities, the Bangladesh Medical Student Society (BMSS) with 15000 medical students, the Bangladesh Cancer Society, as well as 152 institutions endorsed the code, a major step towards resisting and preventing industry interference. **Results:** Tobacco Industry Interference in policy formulation and implementation is one of the major obstacles to tobacco control. Tobacco companies influence policy through various means, including misleading campaigns, influencing stakeholders, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Article 5.3 of the FCTC includes some specific recommendations to control tobacco company influence. While Bangladesh has taken strong initiatives to implement other articles of the FCTC, efforts to implement Article 5.3 remain weak. By publicizing these codes of conduct, we are thus able to place pressure on the government to do likewise. Bangladesh Railway responded positively to our suggestion and took the initiative to sign a code of conduct themselves, the first government agency to do so. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock have also formulated a code of conduct. **Conclusion:** While we are in the early stages of this process, we hope to have continuing success in convincing government departments to sign codes of conduct and be transparent about any remaining interactions with the tobacco industry, in order to gain full compliance with the FCTC Article 5.3 and prevent the tobacco industry from continuing its activities in weakening law enforcement and taxation policy.



Ishrat Zahan Aishi

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Comparative Analysis of Cigarette Price, Tax Structure and Tiering Across Five South Asian Countries

Authors: Ishrat Zahan Aishi*, Syed Mahbubul Alam, Hamidul Islam Hillol, Rumana Huque

Background: Cigarette retail prices, which strongly influence consumption, reflect not only on taxation but also on production costs, industry pricing strategies, and retail margins. Although governments design excise taxes to increase prices and reduce tobacco use, the tobacco industry ultimately determines market prices. Understanding how the industry responds to tax policies through pricing, tier manipulation, and pack design is therefore critical for effective tobacco control.

Objectives: To analyze, monitor, and deepen understanding of the impacts of the interaction among tobacco tax policy, tax structure, and industry price strategy on the cigarette prices, tiers, and variation of cigarettes sold across five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).

Methods: A mixed-methods approach, combining primary retail data and secondary policy data. Cigarette packs were collected through convenience sampling from urban retail markets between April and August 2025, covering leading brands across all official tiers. Data included retail price, maximum retail price (MRP), pack size, cigarette length, and tax tier. Prices were converted to USD for cross-country comparison. Tax and regulatory data were obtained from national budgets, gazettes, and the WHO Tobacco Taxation Database.

Results: Tiering based on cigarette length was observed in all countries except Bangladesh and Pakistan, which use price-based tiers. Identical brands appeared across multiple tiers through product variation, indicating strategic industry manipulation. All countries apply specific excise taxes except Bangladesh, while India uses a mixed system. Retail prices exceeded MRPs in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Sri Lanka recorded the highest cigarette prices—five to eleven times higher than in other countries—consistent with its high specific excise tax, followed by India.

Conclusion: Multi-tier and ad valorem tax structures enable price manipulation by the industry and undermine the effectiveness of tobacco taxes. Uniform, higher specific excise taxes and stronger MRP enforcement are essential to raise prices and reduce affordability in South Asia.



Sajib Saha

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Mapping the Stakeholders to Strengthen the Implementation of Tobacco Control Act in Urban Context of Bangladesh: Findings from a Stakeholder Mapping Exercise

Authors: Sajib Saha*, Md. Badruddin Saify, Shumia Islam, Lenik Chakma, Rumana Huque

Introduction: Tobacco use remains a critical public health problem in urban Bangladesh due to implementation and enforcement challenges of smoke-free policies. Stakeholder mapping can identify actors, define power dynamics and inform effective implementation of existing and future tobacco control act. **Objectives:** This exercise aimed to map relevant stakeholders, assess their influence, alignment, and generate actionable insights to guide effective stakeholder engagement in making urban public spaces of Bangladesh tobacco-smoke free. **Methods:** A stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted with 28 invitees during an in-person stakeholder engagement workshop on February, 2025 in Dhaka. Using 9C framework of Balane et al. (2020), a self-administered structured questionnaire was adapted to assess stakeholder stances, policy influence and mechanisms to make public places tobacco smoke-free. The 9Cs represent 'Commissioner' (who pay for implementation), 'Collaborator' (who work with local authority), 'Commentator' (whose opinion is heard by people), 'Contributor' (from whom local authorities seek advice), 'customer' (public-place owner/manager), 'Consumer' (service-user), 'Champion' (who advocate for positive change), 'Challenger' (who oppose the change), and 'Channels' (who work as communicator). Data from paper-based questionnaire were compiled and descriptive statistics were generated for quantitative data and thematic analysis applied for open-ended data to identify patterns. **Results:** The analysis showed that respondents identified themselves as 'Consumers' (n=13), 'Collaborators' (n=12), 'Contributors' (n=11), 'Commentators' (n=11), 'Commissioners' (n=5), 'Channels' (n=5), 'Customers' (n=3), while 17 respondents identified themselves in multiple-stakeholder categories and twelve respondents found themselves as 'Champions'. 'Collaborators' and 'Contributors' had highest interest in smoke-free initiatives, while 'Channels' and 'Customers' had relatively lower interest. 'Commissioners' represented highest power, where 'Collaborators' and 'Contributors' stayed middle, and 'Channels' and 'Customers' had comparatively lower-power. Stakeholders emphasized cross-sectoral coordination, outreach and media advocacy to normalize smoke-free norms and strengthen enforcement. **Conclusion:** This exercise indicates that the highest power lies with high-level authorities identified as 'commissioner' and suggests collaborative efforts among multi-stakeholders to strengthen the implementation of tobacco control act in Bangladesh.



Md. Rahat Rahman

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Tobacco Control a Key to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: A Qualitative Policy Analysis of Bangladesh

Authors: Md. Rahat Rahman*, Md. Zulhas Ahmed, Bivuti Bhushon Mahato, Farhana Zaman Liza, Md. Bazlur Rahman

Background: Tobacco leads to more than 8 million fatalities each year globally including Bangladesh. The impact of tobacco use in Bangladesh acts as a barrier to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Objectives:** This study aims to investigate the consequences of tobacco use on Bangladesh's health, economy, and environment. Moreover, it assesses how comprehensive tobacco control policies could expedite progress toward attaining SDGs by 2030 along with strategic recommendations to policy makers and relevant stakeholders for Strengthening Tobacco Control to attain SDGs in the country. **Methods:** This research employs a qualitative desk review approach, examining and evaluating 50 documents comprising reports, journals, academic publications, and policy documents related to Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) and SDGs to comprehend the present situation of tobacco control in Bangladesh and its effects on public health, economy, and environment. **Results:** Tobacco affects 15 goals out of 17 of SDGs in Bangladesh. It incurs an annual cost of \$3.6 billion, intensifies poverty (SDG 1), diminishes 26,475 hectares of land available for agriculture (SDG 2), causes 161,000 deaths each year (SDG 3), disrupts educational opportunities (SDG 4), negatively impacts women's health and earnings (SDG 5), contaminates water sources (SDG 6), keeps farmers and workers mired in debt (SDG 8), obstructs the formulation of policies regarding industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), worsens inequality (SDG 10), deteriorates urban air quality (SDG 11), produces excessive waste (SDG 12), leads to 30% of forest loss (SDG 13), exhausts soil resources (SDG 15), undermines effective governance (SDG 16), and hampers international collaborations (SDG 17). **Conclusion:** Implementing the tobacco control legislation as outlined by the WHO FCTC can safeguard public health, alleviate poverty, enhance food production, advance education, and support gender equality through joint initiatives from both government and private entities, thus cultivating a healthier and more sustainable Bangladesh.

RESEARCH FINDINGS DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE 2026

List of Research Studies as of 2025



Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2025
01.	Assessing Compliance at Trains and Railway Stations and Knowledge, Attitudes, and Implementation Challenges Related to Tobacco Control Law among Railway Employees and Passengers
02.	E-Cigarette Marketing and Its Influence on Smoking Behaviors among Young Adults in Bangladesh
03.	Tobacco Imagery in Over-the-Top (OTT) Platforms and Its Compliance with Existing Tobacco Control Regulations in Bangladesh: A Content Analysis
04.	Utilizing Health Development Surcharge to Promote Sustainable Engagement of Civil Society in Tobacco Control: Challenges and Way Out
05.	The Presence and Regulation of On-Campus Smoking Tobacco Sales: Evidence from Public Universities in Khulna and Barishal Divisions
06.	Supply Chain of Smokeless Tobacco in Rural Bangladesh: Gaps in Regulation and Policy Needs
07.	The Impact of Social Media and Peer Influence on the E-Cigarette Use among Youth: Behavioral Trends and Public Health Implications

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2024
01.	Factors Influencing the Tobacco Growers' Transition to Non-Tobacco Cultivation and Vice Versa: a Comparative Analysis
02.	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of 5A-5R Counseling Services for Tobacco Cessation with or without Mobile Phone-Assisted Remote Support in Rural Primary Healthcare Settings
03.	Exploring Weakness of Cigarette Price Hike Structure and Complications Aroused by the Term "And Above" in Base Price in the National Budget Proposal
04.	Tobacco Industries Ill Tactics on Tertiary Education Institutions: Policy Gaps and Managerial Challenges
05.	Unregulated Street Tobacco Vendors: A Gateway to Increased Tobacco Availability and Consumption Among Public University Students of Bangladesh
06.	Comparisons between Smokers' and Nonsmokers' Reactions to Health Warning Labels on Cigarette Stick and Plain Packaging: An Experimental Pilot Study
07.	Exploring E-Cigarette Consumption: Perception Among Diverse Youth Age Cohorts in Bangladesh
08.	Compliance and Enforcement of Smoke-free Legislation in Hospitals in Bangladesh

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2023
1.	Exploring the Distribution, Availability, and Marketing of E-Cigarettes in Bangladesh
2.	Parliamentary Oversight on Tobacco Control in Bangladesh
3.	Knowledge and Practice of Tobacco Cessation Counseling among the Nurses Working at Primary Health Care Facilities in Bangladesh
4.	Trend or Trap: The Influence of Social Media Advertising of E-cigarettes on Young Adults of Dhaka City
5.	Compliance and Implementation Challenges of Tobacco Control Law at Public Transportation in Dhaka City
6.	Influence of Designated Smoking Area (DSA) of Restaurants on Adolescent Smoking
7.	Tax Evasion Strategies of Smokeless Tobacco Industries in Bangladesh
8.	Youth Perception on Introducing Quit-line Service: A Model for Tobacco Cessation in Bangladesh

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2022
1.	Effects of Tobacco Cultivation on Soil Fertility and Environment in Bangladesh
2.	On Screen Tobacco Usage in Popular Bangladeshi OTT Platform: How does it Influence Young Adults of Bangladesh
3.	Profitability Analysis with Comparison of Three Major Crops and Tobacco Production in Tobacco-Cultivated Areas in Bangladesh
4.	Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2022: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 in Bangladesh
5.	Exploring the Prospects and Challenges of Implementation of the Tobacco Vendor Licensing in Bangladesh
6.	Exploring the Direct and Indirect Tobacco Advertisement and Promotion around the Point-of-Sale in Urban and Rural Areas of Bangladesh
7.	Digitalization of Tobacco Taxation System: Prospects and Challenges
8.	Patterns and Determinants of Electronic Cigarettes Usage among Young Adults in Bangladesh
9.	Barriers and Opinions to Declaring Tobacco Smoke-Free Homes in Dhaka City: A Mixed Methods Study Focusing on the Home Setting Approach

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2021
1.	Risk Assessment of Pesticides Induced Health Hazards among the Tobacco Farmers: A Study towards Urging New Policy for Tobacco Cultivation Control in Bangladesh
2.	Tobacco Consumption and Severity of COVID-19 Patients: Bangladesh Perspective
3.	Exploring Ban on Selling of Single Stick Smoking and Unpackaged Smokeless Tobacco as a Policy Option for Bangladesh
4.	Effect of Advertisement, Promotion, and Sponsorship on E-cigarette Consumption among the Young Adults in Bangladesh
5.	Does Higher Tax Rate Affect Tobacco Usage? Determinants of Tobacco Control Mechanism
6.	Exploring Conception of Vape Among Young Adults of Dhaka City
7.	Opinions to minimize tobacco consumption and complying tobacco control law: setting approach in private university

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2020
01.	Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Tobacco Control Law among Tobacco Retailers of Dhaka City Corporation
02.	Compliance with Smoke-Free Legislation in Public Places and Smoking Behaviour: An Observational Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh
03.	Implication of Unadopted Measures on Reducing Cigarette Smoking: A Study from Corporate Employees' Perspectives
04.	Failure of Professional Male Drivers to Comply with Smoke Free Policy is Associated with Nicotine Dependence and Motives for Smoking
05.	Investigating Policy Gap Related to Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) Ban in Bangladesh
06.	Situational Analysis of E-Cigarette Usage in Bangladesh
07.	Smoking Zone Facilities in Restaurants and Attitudes and Experiences on Tobacco Smoke among Adults in Dhaka City
08.	Demystifying Tobacco Industry Interferences to Undermine Graphic Health Warning Implementation in Bangladesh

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2019
01.	Tobacco Industry Branding Strategies and Its Influence on Young Adults
02.	Ban on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship in Bangladesh: Investigating Compliance Level and Implementation Challenges
03.	Enforcement of Tobacco Control Law Regarding Smoke free Public Place and Public Transport: A Case of Bangladesh Railways Jurisdiction
04.	Tobacco Related Content on New Media and its Exposure among University Students in Bangladesh
05.	Implementation Status of Article 5.3 of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to Curb Tobacco Industry Interference in Bangladesh
06.	Determining Density of Tobacco Retail Outlets and Patterns of Tobacco Use Near Schools in Dhaka
07.	Smoke-free Housing Policy for Multiunit Housing Complexes: Evidence from Divisional Cities of Bangladesh
08.	Influence of Tobacco Control Related Facebook Messages: Status and Way Forward
09.	Shifting of Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in Bangladesh: Challenges to the Tobacco Control Policy

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2018
01.	Impactful Advocacy Strategies for Tobacco Consumption Prevention in the Char Regions of Northern Bangladesh
02.	Compliance Level of Tobacco Control Law in Public Transportation
03.	Toxicants Release from Different Tobacco Products: Alarming for Environmental Pollution and Health Hazards in Bangladesh
04.	Relationship between Income Elasticity and Tobacco Product Use in Bangladesh
05.	Compliance with Tobacco Control Law in Uttara Model Town: A Way Forward to a Smoke-free City
06.	Adoption of Tobacco Retail License in Bangladesh: Exploring Possible Outcomes and Implementation Challenges
07.	Graphic Health Warnings on Cigarette Packs: Exploration of its Effectiveness in Deterring the Youth of Bangladesh
08.	Health Hazards among Women Involved in Tobacco Curing in Selected Rural Areas of Bangladesh
09.	Barriers to Implementing the Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2017
01.	Cigarette Selling to and by the Minors in Bangladesh: Policy Gaps and Implementation Challenges
02.	Influence of Social Media and Peer Group on Smoking among Selected Public & Private University Students in Urban Dhaka
03.	Factors Influencing Tradition of Smokeless Tobacco Use in Rural Communities of Bangladesh
04.	Business of Loose Cigarettes and Losing of Tobacco Control: Current Situation in Urban Areas of Bangladesh
05.	Smoking Behavior among TB Relapse Cases at Tertiary Level Hospitals in Dhaka City of Bangladesh
06.	The Relationship between Tobacco Consumption Habits and Road Traffic Accidents: A Study among the Heavy Vehicle Drivers in Bangladesh
07.	Implementing Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way Forward
08.	Effectiveness of Tobacco Control Measures at Public and Private University Campuses in Bangladesh
09.	Exploring Institutional Mechanisms for Economically Sustainable Alternatives for Tobacco Farmers
10.	Socioeconomic Inequalities in Secondhand Smoke Exposure at Home in the Context of Mother-child Pairs in Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2016
01.	Relationship between Sale of Tobacco Products by Children and Their Attitude and Practice Regarding Tobacco Intake
02.	Impact of Taxation on the Consumption of Cigarettes: A Study on Smoking Behavior among the Undergraduate Students
03.	Socio-Economic Impact of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh: A Study in Kushtia District
04.	Marketing Strategy of E-cigarettes in Bangladesh
05.	Prevailing Social Obstacles in Keeping Homes Tobacco-free in Urban Areas: Realizing Ways to Overcome the Challenges
06.	Insight of Plain Packaging among the Adult General Population in Dhaka City
07.	Status of Graphic Health Warning on Tobacco Packs: A Study among a Low Socio-economic Group in Bangladesh
08.	Health and Environmental Impacts of Tobacco Farming in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
09.	Price Elasticity, Social Norms, Tobacco Control Policies and Smoking Behavior among Students in the South-west Region of Bangladesh
10.	Mapping Land Use and Land Cover Changes due to Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh and their Public Health Impacts

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2015 (Student Category)
01.	Heavy metals (Cr, Cd and Pb) in chewing and other categories of tobacco consumed in Bangladesh and their effects on health
02.	Secondhand smoke in public places: Awareness, attitudes and exposure among university students
03.	Smokeless tobacco consumption and diabetic foot ulcer
04.	Factors associated with female smoking at selected universities in Dhaka
05.	A comparison of avoidance behavior to secondhand smoke (SHS) among male and female residential students of Dhaka University
06.	Smokeless tobacco use among floating people in Dhaka city
07.	The prevalence of tobacco consumption and its determinants among university students in Sylhet division: A cross-sectional study
08.	Adult smokers' views about tobacco warning labels on cigarette packages: A study in Dhaka city
09.	Determinants of exposure to secondhand smoke at home among children in rural Bangladesh
10.	Emotional, behavioral problems and cigarette smoking behavior: A survey among Bangladeshi adolescents

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2015 (Researcher Category)
11.	Factors influencing farmers to turn to tobacco cultivation in khulna division of Bangladesh
12.	Effects of maternal smokeless tobacco use on birth weight and gestational age: A case control study in rural Dhaka, Bangladesh
13.	Level of compliance with the Tobacco Control Act 2005 in relation to exhibition of vigilance notice at public places in Bangladesh
14.	Compliance with Tobacco Control Law in public places: A survey in Dhaka city
15.	Patterns of electronic-cigarette use and users' beliefs about its harmful effects
16.	Knowledge and attitudes regarding the National Tobacco Control Law and smoking behaviors among Bangladesh police
17.	Smoking among the employees and barriers to smoke-free initiative in four medical college hospitals in Bangladesh
18.	The role of mass media in tobacco control
19.	Tobacco knowledge, attitudes and practices among adults attending outpatient departments of public hospitals in Bangladesh
20.	Child labor in <i>bidi</i> factories: Current situation and the way forward

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2014 (Student Category)
01.	Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostel and their Homes in Dhaka City
02.	Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among Slum-Dwellers in Dhaka City
03.	E- Cigarette: A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Private University Students in Dhaka City
04.	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Youths towards the Use and Control of Tobacco: A Survey among University Students
05.	Perception of Smoking-Related Risks and Benefits among Selected Urban and Rural Adolescent Students
06.	Realizing the Ways to Keep Teenagers Smoke-Free
07.	Prevalence and Awareness of Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students
08.	Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco use among the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City
09.	Changing Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in the Regulated Environment in Bangladesh: Lessons and Challenges for Tobacco Control Policy Advocates
10.	Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2014 (Researcher Category)
11.	Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with It
12.	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh
13.	Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh
14.	Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illnesses: Experience from Rural Bangladesh
15.	Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum
16.	Dynamics of Smoking Behavior among Urban Adolescents and Young Adults of Bangladesh: Peer Effect and Family Influences
17.	Presence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh
18.	Perception about Health Effects of Passive Smoking among Young Adults in Dhaka
19.	Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
20.	The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Labourers at Brick Kilns in Dhaka

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2013
01.	Pattern and Awareness about Smokeless Tobacco in a Rural Area of Bangladesh
02.	Trade-off between the Informal Economy of Tobacco and Tobacco Control Policy in Bangladesh
03.	Form and Effect of Indirect Advertisement and Promotion Activities of Tobacco Products in Khulna
04.	Tobacco use among Rickshaw Pullers of Dhaka City: Behavior, Awareness and Prevention
05.	Tobacco Smoking among the Adult Students: A KAP Study in Dhaka City
06.	Secondhand Tobacco Smoke and Respiratory Problems among the Infants of Smoker and Non-smoker Parents
07.	Study on Health Hazards among the Tobacco Curing Workers of Bangladesh
08.	The Practice and Consequences of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by Tobacco Companies in Bangladesh
09.	Effect of Raising Taxes on Tobacco Consumption
10.	Prevalence of Smoking among Physicians of Bangladesh

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